

"OUR COUNTRY WILL NEVER BE INSPECTED BY ANYONE . . . CUBA IS NOT THE CONGO": Reply Made by the Prime Minister of Cuba (Castro) to a Question Asked During a Radio Interview, October 23, 1962 (Excerpts) *

Up until now none of our weapons has been of the offensive type. Why? Because we have never harbored any aggressive intentions against anyone. Never have we pursued an offensive policy against the rights of any nation, or of any country. We shall never change this policy. We shall never be aggressors. That is why our weapons will never be of the offensive type.

But as we declare this clearly and honestly, we also declare that neither shall we be the victims of any aggression. We also declare that with the same determination and the same security we shall know how to defend ourselves, and we shall repel any aggressor. That is what our weapons are for. That is precisely what I said on 26 July in Santiago de Cuba: "That we knew of the intentions of our enemies, of their plans, and that we had to take the proper measures, not only to resist, but to repel them. That is simply what has happened. We have taken the proper measures to resist and, listen carefully, to repel any direct attack by the United States."

We decidedly reject any attempt at supervision, any attempt at inspection of our country.¹¹ Our country will not be subjected to inspection from any quarter. Our country will never be inspected by anyone, because we will never give authorization for that to anyone, and we will never abdicate our sovereign prerogative. Within our frontiers, we are the ones who rule, and we are the ones who do the inspecting. That is all there is to it. We resolutely reject any attempt, or any type of investigation, come from where it may, over our territory. Cuba is not the Congo.

Anyone who tries to come and inspect Cuba must know that he will have to come equipped for war. That is our final answer to illusions and proposals for carrying out inspections on our territory.

* U.N. doc. S/5183.

¹¹ English-language text in the files of the Department of State. On the same day Premier Castro ordered full mobilization of Cuba's armed forces.

¹² The anniversary of Castro's abortive attack on the Moncada Barracks in 1953.

¹³ As proposed in the U.S. draft resolution contained in doc. III-51, *ante*.